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# THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER

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Designs and Articles submitted for publication will be returned, if not accepted.

Correspondents will please give their full address in each communication.

We will not undertake to Classify any Advertisement received later than the 10th of the Month.

ON and after May 1st, the office of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER will be at No. 21 PARK ROW, directly opposite the Astor House and the Post Office Building.

THE Anglo-mania is no mania at all, we find. The abnormal examples of human beings appearing in the illustrations of popular artists, are, fortunately, less than exceptions even to the fashionable nonentities who constitute the "end men" of social life. It is not impossible among that class to find this creature of the caricaturist, but it is unusual, very unusual.

The mistaken idea that an Englishman looks like a freak of nature when he is attired for the street, prevails only in the limited thinking power of a few. Those few by their ultra thoughts, attract our attention.

In furnishing and in decorating we certainly have avoided the Anglo-mania most satisfactorily, the styles adopted by London artists have had, in reality, but little influence here. Not because they lacked in any particular, but for the reason largely that American experts have found it convenient to ignore all styles in decorating and create a melange of patterns and ideas, and so make the design almost distinctive by its very confusion. This practice is not indulged in at London.

The furniture we use is more nearly American than anything else, and unless we except the disposition by some manufacturers to "convey" an occasional design from English catalogues, there is little to complain of in the way of Anglo-mania in this phase of our living.

The ailment then seems to rest with certain brainless young men who, possessing a proud imbecility, take pleasure in showing it.

A CASE that excites considerable interest and comment in London art circles, has many features not unlike the assault upon General di Cesnola. It appears that a certain Mr. Lawes asserted that a certain Mr. Belt, a sculptor, was, in fact, no sculptor at all, but traded off the work of an assistant as his own, enjoying, thereby, the fame that attached to the work. Mr. Belt recovered \$25,000 damages from Mr. Lawes, which judgment has just been sustained by the highest court, and a new trial or further appeal denied.

MR. HOPKINSON SMITH's good sense and temerity in opening the Bartholdi Exhibition on Sundays, has created a disposition on the part of artists to extend it to other exhibitions of similar character. This is, of course, merely a phase of the old idea of throwing open the public libraries on that day.

Our sprightly contemporary, *The Art Interchange*, in order to test the feeling upon the subject, requested communications from its readers. A considerable number of replies were received, and with two or three exceptions, they favored the plan.

This country enjoys the distinction of being

the only one among the civilized nations wherein nothing but rum can be bought on Sundays. A stranger from an interior county may find with the least possible trouble, any brand of liquor that may appeal to his taste, but should he wish to enjoy the more substantial benefits of a lunch, he must perforce postpone this appetite until the following day.

If there is any good reason why the Sunday Closing League should discriminate in favor of whisky and its agreeable associates, as against books and pictures, it should make it known and so convert the balance of mankind to the same way of viewing the matter, but it does seem a reasonable request that the line should be less violently drawn irrespective of the individual Leaguers personal partialities.

THE question has been started by a journal for general answers by any sufficiently interested, whether or not we have in this country forty writers, novelists, dramatists, poets, etc., who are worthy of ranking as "Immortals" and may be urged as founders of a National Academy. There will, naturally, be a lively interest in the decision upon the question, strengthened by the desire to learn the names of those considered by the majority as best entitled to the distinction.

In making the selections suitable for such an assembly, which should be in every respect peculiarly American, American in impulses, purposes, and form, there is, fortunately, a wide number to choose from and those not altogether from the elder set. No doubt would rest upon the claims of Dr. Holmes, or Whittier, or Lowell, but it is to be hoped that there will be much hesitancy before deciding upon Henry James.

Of our younger writers there are a number who have recently made a name of which they have every reason to be proud, and for these there should certainly be discovered a membership. They require no encouragement, but they deserve it.

It is hardly necessary to say that popularity should be no guage of eligibility, although the chances are very much in favor of this quality governing the votes of the public to a considerable degree. Were popularity to be accepted as a claim, Herbert Spencer would certainly remain without the pale of any English Immortals.

"THE sensitive and shrinking Hawthorne" has had his full share of sympathy from our lachrymose press, recently, and his family has been berated for publishing writings that were the incomplete products of odd moments of a peculiarly brilliant mind. Hawthorne would, doubtless, have utilized these very writings in time, and their publication—even in an unfinished condition—detracts nothing from his reputation.

The fact is, that the particular dearth of genius or originality (the same thing in a measure) among the writers of to-day, makes anything of merit valuable, and the critics would do well to study these chapters of Hawthorne with an idea of practical advantage to themselves, and hesitate about expending sentimental adjectives upon a man whom, probably, they never knew anything of personally, excepting that he wrote a book.

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